

August 11, 2014

Jesse Juen, Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
PO Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Juen:

My name is Peggy Thompson and I am writing to protest the proposed sales of parcels NM-201410-001, 004 thru 015 that will be offered up for lease in the BLM Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, October 22, 2014.

My interests in protesting the sale of these parcels are three fold. I am a resident of Rio Arriba County, living in Abiquiu, New Mexico, I believe that National Forest land is our children and grandchildren's heritage, and that we as stewards of the land have a responsibility to protect the land and the resources for future generations.

Our water is a precious resource and one that is in jeopardy. We now have less than ten percent potable water on the planet. I remember when "clean water" started to be sold in grocery stores, my father said "it will never last". Little did he know that many of us are dependent upon the sale of "clean water". Across the country, even in our own back yards, mining has poisoned our wells and aquifers. It is true that when the mining began we did not know the future impacts, but today that can no longer be the excuse.

Millions of gallons of precious water are required for each proposed well. The chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing destroy this water. This is water we will not have available for growing food, raising livestock, or for household use. In addition the process of fracking risks poisoning local water.

Federal regulations do not apply to oil and gas companies and they are not legally required to disclose the chemicals they inject into wells. Many of these chemicals are carcinogenic. In New Mexico in 2012 there were approximately 700 self-reported accidents. These accidents poisoned our land and our groundwater supply.

Abiquiu is down river, the waters from Gallina and Regina flow into the Rio Chama, which flows into Abiquiu Lake and ultimately the Rio Grande. Poisoning of these waters would have a devastating impact on major populations in New Mexico.

I have driven through the Farmington area and have been to Pecos, Texas all areas where hydraulic fracturing wells are located. I have smelled the bad air, seen the grey skies that occur from the flaring that is a common practice used in fracking. We are already experiencing climate change and the releasing of hydrocarbons into the air through this practice contributes to this change. Flaring in the Santa Fe National Forest is unthinkable, each year we experience forest fires.

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The increase in traffic that results from fracking destroys our roads, and impacts our air, night sky, and noise pollution. I moved here to live in a quiet, clean and pristine environment.

The Bureau of Land Management EA states that deferring the sale of these parcels would not materially affect oil and gas reserves, that other resources would fill in the gap if necessary. It is a well known fact that oil and gas is limited, however solar power is unlimited, why risks our land, air and water resources when we have the technology to expand the use of solar power?

In closing I want to say I am not a scientist however along with visiting the areas where hydraulic fracturing is taking place I have read many reports and it is not rocket science that hydraulic fracturing comes with many risks. Not the least of which is the geology of this area.

The Abiquiu Reservoir and Heron Lake are placed near several known fault lines. Injection wells, which are often used to dispose of waste-water, as well as degradation of bedrock, are known to cause seismic activity. In reading the reports earthquakes have not been addressed in the BLM Environmental Assessment (EA).

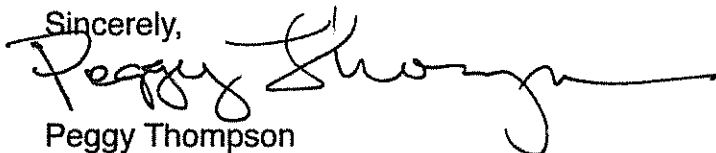
The Santa Fe National Forest Finding of No significant Impact (FONSI) is unwarranted because of a lack of sufficient study. The geology of the parcels deferred by the BLM and the geology of the parcels within the national forest are the same.

The geology west of the Continental Divide has not been sufficiently studied to safely utilize Shallow Shale Hydraulic Fracturing. As I understand it this process occurs above the aquifer and carries a greater potential to drive toxic fracturing chemicals down into the aquifer and contaminate it.

The Morrison Formation is a vital aquifer in the Rio Chama Watershed. The Rio Chama flows to the Rio Grande and together they deliver over half of the water for the entire state. Contamination of the Morrison Formation aquifer would have disastrous effects for us all.

Thank you for taking the time to read my protest letter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Peggy Thompson

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